



# PROSTATE CANCER AND THE BLACK VETERAN COMMUNITY



**SHOULDER to SHOULDER**  
Every Step of the Way

The positive impact of VA's focus on health equity can be seen in the cancer care treatment outcomes of Black male Veterans. Prostate cancer is one of the most common diagnoses for the Veteran community.

## Equity Impacts Outcomes

When Black Veterans turn to VA for their prostate cancer care, they have **better outcomes**. This is because VA reduces barriers to access traditionally seen in non-VA settings, which minimize racial disparities.

### KEY STATISTICS

Approximately

**40%** of those prostate cancer cases in VA are in Black Veterans.

VA diagnoses approximately

**12,000** cases of prostate cancer yearly.

Black Veterans are

**6%** more likely to have high-risk disease.

## What Does This Mean For You?

Generally, men should begin talking to their doctor about prostate cancer screening in their mid-40s. However, because Black men are at higher risk, eligibility for screening could begin at 40 years old.

Having a family history of cancer – particularly prostate, ovarian, breast, colon, or pancreatic cancers – also increases risk for prostate cancer.

## Available Resources

The Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) works to ensure Veterans receive equal services regardless of race, origin, religion or gender.

If you have question about cancer care at VA, email [cancer@va.gov](mailto:cancer@va.gov) or visit [cancer.va.gov](http://cancer.va.gov). For more information on the CMV, visit:

